

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of displaying a web page, comprising:

receiving a multi-image file via a network interface, wherein the multi-image file consists of a single data file comprising ~~a plurality of independent images~~ a primary image and a plurality of secondary images adapted for cooperative display;

receiving a web page containing a markup language tag via the network interface, the markup language tag comprising a code specifying a first subset ~~which~~ of the ~~plurality of~~ images in the multi-image file that should be displayed; and selectively displaying only the web page specified first subset of images from the multi-image file on a display unit.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising parsing the multi-image file for an information header, the information header containing an image name for each image in the multi-image file.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~22~~ 23, wherein the information header further comprises a primary image indicator.

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25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~22~~ 24, wherein the information header further comprises an image location in the multi-image file for each image.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~22~~ 25, further comprising, in response to an event, displaying the web page with a second subset of the plurality of secondary images.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the event comprises a mouse-over event.
28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the ~~plurality of independent images~~ first subset images cooperate to comprise a menu element.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the markup language tag comprises an HTML code.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

(a) a computer program that, when executed on a processor, causes the processor to be configured to perform a method for rendering images in a computer system, the method comprising:

receiving a multi-image file via a network interface, the multi-image file consists of a single data file comprising ~~a plurality of independent images including~~ a primary image and ~~at least one~~ a plurality of secondary images adapted for cooperative display;

selecting ~~an~~ a first subset of the images in the multi-image file for display ~~from the multi-image file~~; and

displaying the selected images on a display unit; and

(b) ~~a tangible~~ computer readable storage media bearing the program.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the program comprises a web browser.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the primary image and ~~the~~ at least one of the plurality of secondary images comprise complementary layers.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the plurality of secondary images overlays the primary image.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a mouse-over feedback effect in a web page, comprising:

receiving a multi-image file via a network interface, wherein the multi-image file consists of a single data file comprising ~~a plurality of independent images~~ a primary image and a plurality of secondary images adapted for cooperative display;

identifying a first markup language tag specifying the multi-image file, the first markup language tag comprising a first code identifying the multi-image file and one or more second codes specifying a first subset of images in the multi-image file for display;

parsing the multi-image file to identify the one or more images specified by the second codes;

simultaneously displaying on a display unit the one or more images specified by the second codes;

detecting user interaction with at least one of the displayed images via an I/O interface, and responsive to the detecting:

identifying a second markup language tag specifying the multi-image file, the second markup language tag comprising the first code and one or more third codes specifying a second subset of images in the multi-image file;

parsing the multi-image file to identify one or more images specified by the third codes; and

simultaneously displaying the one or more images specified by the third codes on the display unit.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the images specified by the one or more second codes comprise complementary layers.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein a first of the images specified by the one or more second codes overlays a second of the images specified by the one or more second codes.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the multi-image file further comprises an image descriptor for each of the plurality of images.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein parsing the multi-image file to identify the one or more images specified by the second codes comprises comparing the second codes to the image descriptors.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

receiving an image file from a web server;

detecting that the received image file is a conventional image file, wherein the conventional image file consists of a single file comprising a single image; and

responsive to the detecting, displaying the web page with the single image.

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41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the detecting comprises parsing the received image file for image descriptors.
42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the multi-image file further comprises a primary image specification.
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
- failing to identify an image specified by the one or more second codes; and
  - responsive to the failure, displaying the primary image.